

From: Nathan Lineback
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 11:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I recently became aware that I have the opportunity to comment on the Microsoft settlement and I felt that I had to say something.

After reading the settlement it seems to boil down to "Microsoft, behave yourself". This is what they should have been forced to do from day one while the trial was going on. Much of this is what any sufficiently large well behaved company should do voluntarily.

As a consumer I have been personally harmed by Microsoft's actions, and I believe Microsoft needs to be punished for it's past actions. I also believe that this settlement will not prevent Microsoft from finding ways to continue to abuse their monopoly.

The part about not having to release documentation regarding security APIs and protocols is just plain dumb. If someone can crack the security just because it is documented, then the software is bad and needs to be fixed. Additionally the availability of information about security APIs and protocols are absolutely critical for inter operability with non-Microsoft products.

The settlement implies to me that Microsoft could license the API documentation however they want. It is imperative that such documentation be public domain, otherwise Microsoft could use their license to exclude certain types of developers.

As for how to properly punish them and make sure they never again do what they did, I am afraid I don't have the answers. I only know this settlement won't do the trick for the long run.

Thank you for your time.

Nathan Lineback
416 Walker St.
Villa Rica, GA 30180

--

Microsoft Internet Explorer is evil! EVIL!!
<http://toastytech.com>